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DANCING THE FIRST NIGHT AWAY

Stephanie Strasburg/Post-Gazette

Wearing glowing headphones, revelers dance to three disc jockeys playing for the "silent disco" Sunday at the August Wilson Center during The Highmark First Night Pittsburgh 2018 New Year's Eve celebrations, Downtown. The night's parade was moved inside the center, where a marching band, puppets, silent disco and art events all shared a roof and shelter from the cold. Local coverage on **Page B-1;** national and world on **Page A-5**.

Two protesters killed in Iranian unrest

Communication apps blocked by officials

By Amir Vahdat and Jon Gambrell
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — The largest protests to strike Iran in nearly a decade continued unabated Sunday, despite a government move to block access to Instagram and a popular messaging app used by activists to organize, with even President Hassan Rouhani acknowledging the public's anger over the Islamic Republic's flagging economy.

Mr. Rouhani and other leaders made a point to warn that the government wouldn't hesitate to crack down on those it considers lawbreakers amid the demonstrations, which began Thursday over the economic woes plaguing Iran.

"Those who misused cyberspace and spread violence are absolutely known to us, and we will definitely confront them," Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said on state television.

The outpouring of public discontent — the most widespread since protests following Iran's disputed 2009 presidential election — has been fanned by messages sent on the Telegram messaging app, which authorities blocked Sunday along with the photo-sharing app Instagram, which is owned by tech giant Facebook.

Many in Iran are learning about

SEE **IRAN**, PAGE A-3

Flu season already severe, but how bad will it get?

By David Templeton
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The flu season, already a bad one, is expected to rage into the new year, in part due to a variant flu strain the vaccine doesn't cover.

As of mid-December, the Pennsylvania Department of Health listed 3,516 confirmed cases statewide, with 378 in Allegheny County. Confirmed cases typically represent a fraction of actual cases. Those numbers actually reflect a lot of flu activity, health officials say.

The big question is whether the U.S. will fare as poorly as Australia did during its winter months (June through August), with the identical flu vaccine being only 10 percent effective.

This season's vaccine is designed to cover H1N1 and H3N2, both A strains, along with two B strains — Victoria and Yamagata, which typically come on strong later in the season. The viral villain once again is H3N2, already a troublesome strain but especially so given a variant H3N2 strain against which the vaccine is ineffective.

So far this season, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about 90 percent of flu cases nationwide

SEE **FLU**, PAGE A-2

5 deputies are shot, 1 fatally, in a Denver-area 'ambush'

By Colleen Slevin and Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

DENVER — A man fired more than 100 rounds at sheriff's deputies in Colorado early Sunday, killing one and injuring four others, before being fatally shot himself in what authorities called an ambush. Two civilians also received injuries that were not life threatening.

Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock said deputies came under fire almost immediately and were shot "very, very quickly" after entering a suburban Denver apartment and trying to talk with the suspect, who was holed up inside a bedroom.

"They all went down almost within seconds of each other, so it was more of an ambush-type of attack on our officers," Sheriff Spurlock said. "He knew we were coming and we obviously let him know that we were there."

The Douglas County coroner identified the suspect as 37-year-old Matthew Riehl.

A YouTube user named Matthew Riehl posted a video Dec. 13, saying he wanted to replace Sheriff Spurlock and railing against the sheriff and other officers in profane, highly personal terms.

The wounded deputies tried to pull the fallen officer, Zackari Parrish, out of the line of further gunfire but were unable to because of their own injuries and only managed to "crawl to safety," Sheriff Spurlock said.

SEE **DENVER**, PAGE A-4

Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

JUMPING FOR JOY The Steelers' Sean Davis, left, celebrates with L.J. Fort after intercepting a pass Sunday against the Cleveland Browns in the fourth quarter at Heinz Field. The Steelers won, 28-24, resting several key players, and will enter the playoffs as the second seed in the American Football Conference. For coverage, see NFL Xtra on **Page C-1** and visit **post-gazette.com**.

Mixed-income housing makes strides in Larimer, E. Liberty

By Diana Nelson Jones
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Three years after winning a $30 million federal grant, a 334-unit mixed-income housing community that straddles Larimer and East Liberty is in the second phase of construction.

Phase one of Cornerstone Village includes 85 units on both sides of East Liberty Boulevard at Larimer Avenue.

The new two- and three-story buildings occupy the intersection with a facade mix of brick and panels of red, umber, blue, green and yellow. They consist of town houses and walk-ups, with a mix of one to four bedrooms. Some units have balconies.

The first phase includes the leasing office, a community building with a fitness center, a

SEE **HOUSING**, PAGE A-2

Ex-resident's arrest over terror is 'shocking,' neighbor says

By Karen Kane
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When the news broke this weekend that a recent former Aspinwall resident Sean A. Duncan is a suspect in a terrorism-related investigation, his former neighbor said she couldn't comprehend it.

"I couldn't even sleep last night. I kept thinking: 'He was nice. He said hello and was pleasant. Was he hating us secretly?'" the woman, who asked that her name not be disclosed, recounted.

Mr. Duncan was arrested Friday night and charged by the FBI with obstructing justice for destroying a computer thumb drive while fleeing federal agents. His home in Sterling, Va., was raided.

SEE **DUNCAN**, PAGE A-4

The people the Pittsburgh region lost in 2017

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Pittsburgh region lost civic leaders, corporate titans, sports heavyweights, medical heroes, artistic talents, political dynamos, philanthropists and more in 2017. The following are just some of the notable Pittsburghers who died in the past year:

Thomas E. Starzl (March 4, age 90)

The pioneering surgeon arrived in Pittsburgh in 1980. Soon after, he radically changed both the status of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the field of transplant medicine. A tireless researcher as well as clinician and administrator, Dr. Starzl transformed the health center in Oakland into the busiest transplant center in the world and created new drugs heralded for reducing the rejection of new organs by their recipients. Many transplant centers around the world are now headed by surgeons he mentored in Pittsburgh, where UPMC's Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute is named to honor his achievements there.

Thomas E. Starzl

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